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HOW MARCIA PAID THE MORTGAGE.

BY L. ROBBINS.

CHAPTER VI.

Stanwood, immersed in a flood of bitter reflection and vain regret, allowed his horse to take his own gait back to the city. The iron had entered his soul.

Winterday exclaimed on seeing him, the next morning, "What have you been doing to yourself?" he cried. "You look more of an invalid than I do."

Stanwood evaded the question, but all day he sat looking out of the car window with unseeing eyes, and his friend forgot his own troubles in sympathy.

They were to take the journey easily, stopping over wherever there were good hotels. At the first of these places Winterday urged his companion to unburden his mind. "Tis awful to see you so broke up," he said. "Can't it be helped? Wouldn't you feel better to—tell what 'tis that troubles you?"

Stanwood could not restrain a wan smile at the others' ingenuities. "We shall have to make an early start in the morning, and you are tired," he answered. "Don't you think you had better go to bed now?"

Winterday gave a disgusted grunt, though he could not help laughing a little too, at the way his invitation to confidence was met.

Stanwood, however, made an effort after this to take an interest in what went on around them, to talk to Winterday and look out for his comfort. But a duller observer than Winterday would have seen that he was not like himself.

Even after they had reached their destination he was moody and restless by turns, working with feverish energy for a week, or taking long rides on horseback, then for days at a time, hardly speaking, or stirring from the house.

In spite of his trouble, however, he began to take an active interest in the people and country about him. Because of his trouble he became more thoughtful of others, more quick to see their griefs and trials, and with a stronger longing to help where help was possible but he rebelled against his lot; it was neither right or just, he told himself over and over.

So the first year passed. Winterday after a week or two of complete prostration consequent on the fatigues of the long journey improved slowly but surely in health. He bought land and set about improving it and planting a lemon grove.

Stanwood, almost without volition on his part, found himself gradually working into the business he had given up in the east.

He had exchanged a few letters with the Wilbur boys, and then the correspondence ceased. In the beginning of the second year his uncle died, and his aunt went to live with a sister, so he was cut off from all knowledge of the Wilburs except what might be found in the Rexbridge papers, to which he had subscribed, and which he eagerly scanned for the news he so feared to see.

From this source he learned of Ruth's graduation from the State Normal School and of Ned's being taken on the staff of the Rexbridge News. There was also an allusion to F. J. Wilbur, presumably Fred, as a "traveling salesman," while Joe's success as a farmer was shown by the prize lists of the agricultural fairs.

One morning in the early part of November Stanwood awoke with the old unrest. It was now three years since he had left the east, and a homesick longing to go back possessed him. He had his horse saddled, and immediately after a hasty breakfast rode off toward the mountains.

He had never felt so rebellious. His whole soul protested against his lot in life, and this mood con-

tinued till shortly before noon. He had been climbing a rocky path, so rough that he had occasionally dismounted and lead his horse. This difficult road brought him at last to a small grassy plateau, and then for the first time he paused and looked back.

He was sheltered from the wind and the sun shone bright and warm upon him. In the distance stretched the sea, below him the smiling valley.

The quiet loveliness of the scene had never before appealed so strongly, or in just such a way, to Stanwood. His feelings underwent a sudden revulsion. Surely, one who could make so beautiful, so perfect a world, must do all things well. Even sorrow must have its purpose. A great peace came upon him. He would no longer rebel, but try humbly to learn the lessons of adversity.

He reached home late in the afternoon. Winterday remarked the expression of his face; "what has happened now?" he queried. You look as though you had heard uncommon good news."

"I've been up on the mountains," Stanwood answered, with an enigmatic smile.

"Humph, that's no explanation. Whom have you seen?"

"No one."

"The mail has come and the eastern papers."

"Have they? Well I will look them over after tea."

Winterday stared at him curiously, for hitherto the eastern papers had always taken precedence of everything, in Stanwood's consideration. But now he ate leisurely, and then settled himself comfortably before examining his mail.

He unfolded the Rexbridge paper, and almost the first thing that caught his eye was the name of Alanson Warner among the marriage notices.

The paper fell from his hand. The blow had fallen at last. But he would not be a coward, so he picked up the paper, with fingers that trembled, and found the place again.

Good heavens! the name of the bride was Jameson, Lillian Jameson! Could there be some mistake. He snatched the other Rexbridge paper from the table with feverish eagerness, and turned to the marriage notices there, then looked through both papers till he found a short paragraph describing the wedding.

"Winterday," he cried, starting up, and dashing the papers aside, "I take the train east to-morrow morning."

"Why, in time, do you—?" began the younger man, but Stanwood interrupted him.

"Don't ask foolish questions," he said good naturedly, "but help me get ready."

"Aren't you coming back?"

"That depends."

"I declare, Emory, I think you might confide in me a little. I never saw such an oyster—and I tell you everything," exclaimed Winterday in an injured tone.

"My dear boy, there's nothing to confide in."

"Humph!" grumbled Winterday, "you make a tremendous mystery and a great fuss over nothing, then."

Stanwood reached Rexbridge at about two o'clock in the afternoon and after removing the dust of travel and eating dinner at a hotel he hired a horse to take him to the Corners.

It was with a feeling of sadness that he drove past his uncle's house, now occupied by strangers, and then his heart began to beat fast as the Wilbur house came in view.

ing instant before it lighted up with recognition of him.

"A bad penny always returns, you know," he said smiling, as he held out his hand, and "I have been thinking of you all day," she made answer as she gave him hers and then turned to lead the way into the sitting room.

When he had removed his coat, and assured her that he had had dinner and his horse would do very well where he was, they sat down opposite each other.

Stanwood glanced about him noted the changed appearance of the room, with its warm carpet, pretty paper, comfortable chairs, and other evidences of prosperity.

Marcia wore a dress of some dark red, woolen material, that set off her clear complexion and dark hair and eyes. She was quiet and self possessed—every inch a lady.

She inquired for Winterday, was glad he had recovered his health, and showed a friendly interest in Stanwood himself. He wished she were not so calm—so merely friendly. He had a foreboding that his long journey would after all prove to have been in vain.

"Where are the rest of the family?" he asked. "Are they away from home?"

"No, we are all here to-day but after dinner the others went for a walk—to the pond, I believe. I did not care to go."

"Tell me about them, please! Are they all well? What are they doing?"

"They are well and prospering. Fred, I suppose you know has been for some time traveling for a firm that manufactures farming implements, and he likes it very much. He is quite successful, too, I should think. Ned has just bought the Rexbridge News, and is all enthusiasm over the improvements he is going to make. Ruth has a good school over there, also, and she and Ned keep house together. It makes it very pleasant for both of them. Joe is to be married at Christmas time, and will continue to live here and run the farm."

"And Cora?"

"Cora was married last evening. The slight tremor in her voice told Stanwood why she had left this news till the last.

"She has done well, I hope," he said.

"Oh, yes—James is just as good as he can be, and Cora will not have to work hard, either, but—I shall miss her so."

"You haven't told me about yourself—what are you going to do?"

"I don't know—yet. I am dazed with all these changes, and can't decide at once. Joe insists on my staying here, and Ned and Ruth want me with them, while Cora says I must live with her, and Fred thinks I might travel around with him," she said, with a sad little smile. "But—I don't know—There are reasons against all these plans."

She faltered, then went on with affected cheerfulness.

"I have thought lately of hiring a few rooms somewhere, when Joe marries, and of setting up an establishment of my own. The other day I don't need me any longer. Indeed, I am not sure that I might not be in the way—"

Her voice trembled and, she tried to laugh it off. "I never used to think I had any jealousy in my disposition, but I find I was wrong. It is hard to take second place where one has always held the first—to have it forced upon you that you have outlived your usefulness—"

She broke off abruptly, and rising quickly went to the window on the pretence that the shade needed adjusting—not so quickly but that Stanwood saw the quivering lip, and tear filled eyes.

He was at her side in an instant. "You know there is one place, Marcia, where you will always be first," he said eagerly. "I have waited a weary while for the time when others should have ceased to need you. Now that it has come you will no longer refuse to be my wife!"

"It is because you are sorry for me, that you say that," she answered, with a little of the old proud look.

"That is what you said before," he returned, "and you were all wrong both then and now. Pity has nothing whatever to do with it. I loved you then, I have loved you ever since till now, and I shall love you to eternity—you, and no one else."

"But why—?"

"Well?"

"You haven't written to me—"

"I was sure you cared for someone else—I thought I had every reason to think so—"

"How could you think that?"

she said with a touch of indignation. "I never cared anything for—that person. You must have seen—"

"Seen what?"

"Are you sure you—feel towards me as you say?" she asked ignoring his question. "Don't I seem different from what I did when you went away?"

"I am sure, and you seem just the same, only nicer every way."

"Do you remember how old I have grown?"

"I remember that you are ten years younger than I am."

"And I have no education—"

"Bother the education!"

"And I am almost worn out with hard work—"

"Marcia, this is all nonsense. You know there is but just one thing that will make me give you up. If you say you do not love me, I will go away and never trouble you again."

"I—can't say that."

"Why?"

"Because—it isn't true."

And so they were married, at Christmas time.

They went to California for a year or two, then came back east to live permanently. Stanwood always idolized his wife, and was so thoughtful of her always that she seemed to grow younger and more beautiful as time passed.

They did a great deal of good in the world, with their money, and otherwise, and their children rose up and called them blessed.

(THE END.)

Marvelous Results.

From a letter written by Rev. J. G. Underman, of Diamonddale, Mich. we are permitted to make this extract. I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery, as the results were almost marvelous in the case of my wife. While I was pastor of the Baptist church at River Junction she was brought down with Pneumonia succeeding LaGrippe. Terrible paroxysms of coughing would last hours with little interruption and it seemed as if she could not survive them. A friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in results." Trial bottles free at B. F. Henry's drug store. Regular size 50c and \$1.00.

Wabash Excursions.

St. Louis Exposition Sept. 9th to Oct. 24th. One and one-third fare for round trips. On sale each Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Sept. 8th. Good 5 days.

Free chair cars and sleepers Kirksville to St. Louis without change. Through coach and sleeper Kirksville to Kansas City without change. Two fast trains each way daily via "The Great Wabash Route."

W. E. NOONAN, Agent.

Electric Bitters.

Electric Bitters is a medicine suited for any season, but perhaps more generally needed, when the languid exhausted feeling prevails, when the liver is torpid and sluggish and the need of a tonic and alterative is felt. A prompt use of this medicine has often averted long and perhaps fatal bilious fevers. No medicine will act more surely in counteracting and freeing the system from the malarial poison. Headache, indigestion, Constipation, and dizziness yield to Electric Bitters. 50c and \$1.00 per bottle at B. F. Henry's Drug Store.

Englehart Bros.,

are offering some very fine bargains in Real Estate, among which are the following:

No. 826—Splendid lot on Franklin street, for \$600.

No. 522—Vacant lots in the southwest part of the city at \$70. to \$100 each. All level laying lots.

No. 791—New four room house northwest part of the city, \$550. Terms easy.

No. 775—A splendid property, three blocks southwest of the square, elegant yard, and a little over two lots of ground, large house, price \$1900.

No. 542—One of the best properties in the north part of the city, on Franklin street, price \$3600. Up to date with all modern improvements. See them for any kind of Real estate.

I suffered for thirty years with Rheumatism and had tried everything. Dr. Sawyer's Family Cure cured me. Mrs. C. Young, Menominee, Wis. WARD & FINLEY

FOR SALE—Farm of 80 acres of bottom land, 2 1/2 miles from Kirksville, 70 acres in cultivation, 20 acres in meadow, orchard of 500 apple trees commencing to bear, 100 pear trees, good sand bank. Price \$2500 part cash, balance on time. For further information inquire of O. B. Prickett, Kirksville, Mo.

I have used Dr. Sawyer's Pastilles and find they are really superior to what is claimed for them. I sincerely believe they will cure any case of female weakness. Mrs. W. H. Darden, Lexington, Tenn. WARD & FINLEY

To St. Paul and Minneapolis via Burlington Route.

Two splendid through trains each day from Missouri River points to the north via the old established Burlington route and Sioux City Line. Day train has handsome observation vestibule sleepers, free chair cars, and dining cars (north of Council Bluffs). Night train has handsome sleepers to Omaha, Council Bluffs and Sioux City, and parlor cars Sioux City north. Consult Ticket agent. L. W. WAKELEY, G. P. A. St. Louis, Mo.

From Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine, from Galveston to St. Paul, in 5,000 different stores, BECKWITH'S ROUND OAK leads the procession. R. Clark Hardware Co.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue and authority of a special execution on a judgment for delinquent taxes issued from the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Adair county, Missouri, returnable at the October term, 1896 of said court, to me directed in favor of William Meeks county collector and against John Bones in and to the following described real estate situated in Adair county, Missouri to-wit:

22-30-00 east part northwest 1-4 of the north west 1-4 and 24-30-00 southwest 1-4 of the northwest 1-4 and 22-30-00 east part of the northwest 1-4, in section thirty, township sixty six of range sixteen, and will, on Wednesday the 30th day of October 1896, between the hours of nine o'clock a. m. and five o'clock p. m. of that day, while the circuit court for Adair county, Missouri, is in session, at the court house door in Kirksville, Adair county, Missouri, sell the same, or so much thereof as may be required, at public sale, to the highest bidder for cash in hand, (subject to all prior liens and judgments,) to satisfy said execution and costs. GEO. W. RUPE, Sheriff Adair County, Mo.

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To Chicago, St. Louis and East VIA BURLINGTON ROUTE.

The traveling public is sure to find the best fast vestibule trains to the east via the Burlington route. Handsome new compartment sleepers (same rate as standard sleepers), chair cars (seats free), Kansas City and St. Joseph to St. Louis; standard sleepers, chair cars and dining cars—"pay for what you order"—to Chicago. Take the "Vestibuled Eli"—to Chicago, and the "vestibuled limited" to St. Louis. Ask agent for tickets via the Burlington route.

L. W. Wakeley, G. P. A. St. Louis, Mo.

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